

REMARKS**I. INTRODUCTION**

Claims 2-4, 8, 14, and 17-20 have been previously canceled. Claims 1 and 11-13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1, 5-7, 9-13, 15, 16, and 21-26 are pending in this application. It is respectfully submitted that based on the above amendments and the following remarks that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6-7, 9-13, 15-16, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. US 6,543,053 to Li et al. (the "Li patent") in view of U.S. Pat. No. US 6,091,705 to Regula (the "Regula patent"). (See 10/27/2005 Office Action, ¶ 7, p. 2).

The Li patent describes a method for an interactive data distribution system over a network particularly for video-on-demand applications. A shared buffer and a split-and-merge protocol are implemented to allow multiple users to share the same video stream multicasted over a network with true VOD services including the ability to access any available video at any time and VCR-like functions. An interactive user is merged back to one of the batching video streams shared by multiple users upon resuming normal play mode. (See Li patent, abstract). One feature of the invention includes using a synchronization buffer to synchronize two video streams which are offset in time. (*Id.* at col. 5, lines 6-8). A combination of the synchronization buffer and the split-and-merge protocol allows an increased sharing of the system resources and user interactions. (*Id.* at col. 5, lines 18-20).

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a method for delivering content in a unicast/multicast manner, which includes the steps of "receiving a plurality of requests for unicast transmission streams" and "providing the plurality of unicast transmission streams" and "synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams, wherein synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams is performed by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams *at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast transmission stream is received*" and "replacing the synchronized plurality of unicast transmission streams with a multicast stream." According to the specification, upon request for a unicast information stream by multiple receivers at different times, a sender 20 provides a plurality of unicast information streams. (See Specification, ¶ [0021]). The invention slows down the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast stream is received individually in order to synchronize with a further stream so that ultimately a multicast stream is provided. (See Specification, ¶ [0024]).

The Examiner has correctly stated that the Li patent does not disclose synchronizing the plurality of unicast streams by slowing down one or more of the unicast transmission streams. The Examiner has attempted to cure this deficiency with the Regula patent. However, the Regula patent teaches that a link interface generates data clock signals and delay data signals entering the link interface from the input path 305 to synchronize data signals with the inphase clock signal. (See Regula patent, col. 12, lines 59-63). Then, the synchronization may be accomplished by delaying the data clocks independently to synchronize with the inphase clock. (See Regula patent, col. 14, lines 40-42). The synchronization rate taught by Regula is not related to when a request was received. In contrast, the present application teaches and claims that synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams is performed by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast stream is received. (See Specification, ¶ [0024]). Then, upon synchronization, a multicast stream replaces the plurality of unicast streams. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that neither the Li patent nor the Regula patent, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest "synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams, wherein synchronizing the plurality of unicast transmission streams is performed by slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast transmission stream is received," as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw his rejection of claim 1. Because claims 6-7 depend from and, therefore, include the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

Independent claims 11-13 include substantially the same limitations as claim 1 including "slowing down one or more of the unicast streams at a rate that depends on when the request for the unicast stream is received." Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable for the same reasons stated above with reference to claim 1, and the Examiner should withdraw the rejection of these claims. Because claims 9-10 and 15-16 depend from and, therefore, include the limitations of claim 11, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons stated above. Because claims 21-24 depend from and, therefore, include the limitations of claim 12, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for

at least the reasons stated above. Because claims 25-26 depend from and, therefore include the limitations of claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons stated above.

The Examiner has rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. US 6,543,053 to Li et al. (the "Li patent") in view of U.S. Pat. No. US 6,091,705 to Regula (the "Regula patent") further in view of U.S. Pat. No. US 5,563,946 to Cooper et al. (the "Cooper patent"). (See 10/27/2005 Office Action, p. 4). As discussed above, the Li patent does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1. The Regula patent and the Cooper patent do not cure the defects of the Li patent. Accordingly, because claim 5 depends from and, therefore, includes all the limitations of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this claim is also allowable over the cited references.

III. THE 35 U.S.C. § 112 REJECTION SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

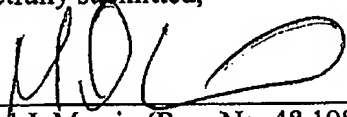
Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. However, the specification states the following: "In the present invention, the transmission of information between senders and receivers is best performed by utilizing high bandwidth signals, such as signals containing digital representations of one or more movies, audio selections and related multimedia, between widely separated locations which is commonly done via special connections to high bandwidth transmission lines which are interconnected to form a point-to-point connection from a source or sender, such as a multimedia server to a receiver, such as a client personal terminal or device." Applicants respectfully submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that this disclosure described at least the subject matter of claim 5. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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